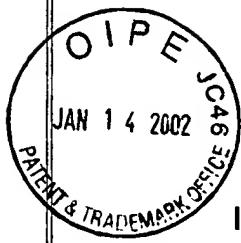


1646



PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 02481.1671-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Franz-Josef RUBRÖDER et al.

Group Art Unit: 1646

Application No.: 09/991,964

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR THE STABILIZATION
OF PROTEINS IN COMPLEX
MIXTURES DURING THEIR STORAGE
IN AQUEOUS SOLVENTSAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1, and add the following new claims 23-77:

23. A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein during storage, wherein the effective concentration does not decrease by more than about 7%.

24. The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the effective concentration does not decrease by more than about 3%.

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